

Romans 8:2~4

Tonight I'd like to ask you to lend me your ears one last time, as we consider for our subject tonight, the **Law**... Over the scope of the last 6 chapters, Paul has used over 50 times... But after 8:7, a word that he only uses a total of 6 time in the rest of his letter.

Here in chapter 8, Paul closes out his dealing with the Law, by introducing us to two new terms... "*the flesh*..." and "*the Spirit*..." The flesh represents the "*fallen nature*"...the spirit speaks of the new life in us, the life of Christ...

Spirit and *Flesh* are contrary... (Galatians 5) ¹³For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. ¹⁴For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. ¹⁵But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. ¹⁶*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ¹⁸But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

The conflict and struggle Paul had with Sin in 7:13~25, got me to thinking about what Paul said in 2Corinthians 12... "*A Thorn in the flesh*..." A "*Messenger of Satan*" to buffet me, so I wouldn't be exalted above measure... In other words, to keep me humble... I tell you what I believe he's talking about... I believe Paul was constantly bombarded by a certain sin in his heart (something he despised, and hated with all that was in him) but none the less, it was there... He asked God to take it away, but God said NO! Grace sufficient... Paul came to realize, that his weakness was the source of his spiritual strength.

The key to "*Victory over Sin*" is in understanding the law...

²*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

Verse 2 holds a *Principle*... that we really need to get a hold of...

In Romans 12:2, Paul makes the statement, "*be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind*..." That word *transformed* is the word from which we get our word "*metamorphosis*." It describes the process of a *larva* turning into a *butterfly*! In the context of Romans 12, it describes how we become holy and righteous people...by the renewing of our minds, by removing things we once held to be true and good, and replacing them with the truth of God's word!

I emphasize that because the principle or truth that Paul shares here in verse 2, is one of those "*life-changing truths*..." One that is extremely important to understand and renew our minds with if we ever hope to glorify God with our lives.

²*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

Paul declares *two laws*...

- 1) The **law** of the Spirit of Life...
- 2) The **law** of sin and death...

Two *different laws* with two *different sources*...

Notice the contrast in how Paul characterizes the two...he refers one to that of "*spirit*" and "*life*..." while describing the other as just the opposite, "*sin*" and "*death*..."

The **law of the Spirit of Life**...is a reference to **Christ**. It could well be called the "**Law of Christ**..." Of which Paul does call it in Galatians 6...

¹*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.* ²*Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.* ³*For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*

I don't have time to develop this thought here...but I will say what a contrasting statement that is to the "**Law of Moses**..." In the **Law of Moses**, when an individual transgressed the Law, that individual was to be severally punished...not shown grace. But that is exactly what Paul is saying...

But as Paul explains here, not so with the **Law of Christ**... If our brother or sister looses "*a struggle with sin*" and are overtaken... We who are "*spiritual*", we who stand only because of the strength in Christ, we who are walking in the spirit...are to *humbly* seek to restore that person. We do so, in full recognition, that if it were not for Christ...we too could be overtaken. For if we think that we're better than our fallen brother, than we have just deceived ourselves!

Nowhere is the "**Law of Moses**" & "**The Law of Christ**" better illustrated, than in John 8... **The woman caught in adultery!** The two laws collide head on... In that story, we see, where sin abounded, grace did much more abound! The truth we learn there, that Law declares us all guilty...but through Christ, we can receive grace!

Whether it be called the "**Law of Christ**"...or...the "**Law of the Spirit of Life**..." it is a reference to the LIFE that comes as a result of submission to Jesus Christ.

And this is in contrast to the "*other law*" he mentions here, which by yielding ourselves to, we enter into sin, and spiritual deadness! This "*other law*" he is referring to here, which he calls "*the law of sin and death*," is a reference to the **Mosaic Law**...the Law of Moses...

This is but one of several such names Paul uses to describe the Mosaic Law...

2Co. 3... The Ministry of **death**...

The Ministry of **condemnation**...

Ga. 3:10...Paul declares those under the Law are under a curse...¹⁰*For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continues not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.*

Why would he identify "**God's Holy Law**" by such names... Didn't he say back in 7:12, that the Law was Holy, good and just? Yes...but Paul identifies it by these names to give us the proper perspective of the Mosaic Law...

Listen closely... Referring to the Mosaic Law as "*the law of sin and death*" is not speaking to the law itself, as to *the results that come from* submitting oneself to it!

This principle helps us understand what Paul is trying to teach us here...

*The individual who submits himself to the Mosaic Law... *walks after the Flesh*... which can produce nothing good... The result of submitting oneself to the Mosaic Law is always SIN, because the righteousness that is produce, is a result of my own abilities, my own strength and power...*

I'm convinced that herein lies the answer as to why we do not see the moving of the "**Holy Ghost**" as recorded in the days of the early church... I believe that out of "*ignorance*" to the scripture, that much of what we see as far as service to God is done so in our own strength and power!

I'm afraid that what many churches are preaching today is little more than a "Morality Gospel..." Exhorting people to "Straighten up their lives..." Exhorting them to "do what is right..." When the true gospel message is the "exact opposite!" It teaches that every individual is in bondage to SIN, a fleshly nature that hasn't the slightest possibility of producing the first fiber of righteous, that can't produce "any good thing!" The gospel declares this truth, and then calls for the individual to TURN from it, to completely abandon the Flesh, and yield ourselves to the "POWER of God", to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit!

And again, I need to make it clear... This is where it becomes extremely dangerous... The sin that Paul is speaking of here "does not appear as sin!" The individual who submits him/herself to the Mosaic Law will have an "outward form" of righteousness...but the inward reality is sin and death! Again, this is true because the righteous produced stems from my own ability, my own strength...what Paul calls the flesh! Those who walk in the flesh...as Paul puts it...are CONDEMNED! Because they have not yielded their hearts to Christ!

Paul's point here is, that as Christians, we are to no longer submit ourselves to the Law of Moses, but to a "New Law"... The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus! Eliminating the production of sin...which is stimulated by the Law.

(1Corinthians 15) **We see this same truth...**⁵⁶*The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*⁵⁷*But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

By no longer yielding our hearts to the Mosaic Law, but to Christ... "we are free sin and death..." Because as 1Co. 15 states it... Sin finds it's strength through the Law, and Death has its power in Sin... Through no longer being "under the law"...we are free, and enjoy communion and life with God!

*The individual who submits himself to the Mosaic Law...walks after the Flesh...
The individual who submits himself to Christ alone...walks after the Spirit...*

³*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh...*

What does he mean...*what the law could not do?* Give LIFE...Produce [Righteousness](#)...

(Galatians 3) ²¹*Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.* ²²*But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.* ²³*But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.* ²⁴*Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.* ²⁵*But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.* ²⁶*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

What the Law was unable to do...Christ makes possible!

³*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh... God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

Paul said the same thing, a little different way...in 2Co.5...²¹*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Beloved... simply put, *There is no condemnation of those in Christ Jesus...* for the simple reason that God's condemnation was poured out on Christ on that tree!